

Sponsored by the 'Friends of the Maine Wildlife Park'
'Summer Wildlife Days' 2009 Maine Wildlife Park Event Calendar

These special displays may be viewed from approximately 11:00am to 2:00pm unless otherwise noted.

Saturday May 2 **Bridges Foundation 'Walk on the Wild Side':** 10:00am-2:00pm; Walk-a-thon Fundraiser for an activity center for persons with developmental disabilities and autism in the Gray/Windham area. FMI and to Pre-register go to www.thebridgesfoundation.org or call 207-894-5288 (*Rain date Sunday*)

Saturday May 9 **Learn about Lobsters:** with Captain Tom & Crew from the Portland lobster boat Lucky Catch. See how that tasty treat gets from the bottom of the ocean to your dinner plate. Hear about lobster habits & conservation efforts while learning about hard shells, shedders, shorts, culls, & keepers; live lobsters and other sea critters, & real equipment!

Saturday May 16 **Sparks Ark:** Have you ever had a raccoon stuck in your chimney, a skunk under your porch, woodchucks in the garden, or bats in your attic? Dave Sparks is a licensed animal damage control agent and the professional to call when you experience a conflict with area wildlife. He can also give you tips, tricks and ways to discourage wildlife that may be causing trouble in your gardens, home and buildings.

Sat-Mon. May 23-25 **Friends of the Maine Wildlife Park Annual Plant Sale:** The Friends volunteer group helps out the wildlife park in so many ways; learn more about their ongoing projects and enjoy great bargains on spring plants with annual and perennial flowers, vegetables and baskets grown in their own greenhouse! Plants will be available all day each day.

Saturday May 30 **Maine Forest Service:** Join a local **District Forest Ranger** with a demonstration and display of the tools of his trade. **Forest Rangers** protect our forests from fires, insects, disease and misuse. A special photo opportunity for the kids will happen from 12 noon to 12:30pm, when **Smokey the Bear** will arrive to meet his fans. Bring your cameras for photos of Smokey with your children!

Saturday, June 6 **All About Bats Night Visit: 7:30pm-9:30pm** Join the Chewonki Foundation and the Batmobile to learn about "nature's own bug zappers"! Meet their live, unreleasable Big Brown Bat. Bats eat nearly their weight in mosquitoes and crop pests before flying back to their roosts each night. But more than half the 44 U.S. species are endangered or in serious decline. Regular admission fees. (*Call office 657-4977 if raining*) *The Nature Store and Snack Shack will be open for snacks & souvenirs!*

Saturday June 13 **Fly Tying & Fly Casting with Trout Unlimited:** Sebago Trout Unlimited (TU) Chapter members will be on hand to teach these popular fishing techniques. Learn to cast; then tie a fly and then bring it home to try on your next fishing trip!

Saturday June 20 **Fish and Wildlife Day** Come talk with the people that preserve, protect and manage Maine's wildlife for you! Join Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife fisheries & wildlife biologists, game wardens, safety and hatchery staff with a variety of special fish & wildlife exhibits and displays. 9:30am-3:30pm

Saturday June 27 **Trails End Taxidermy:** Taxidermy is a method of reproducing a life-like, 3-dimensional rendition of an animal, bird or fish for permanent display. Come and see a variety of examples of this delicate art with local taxidermist Dana Soucier. Dana will bring along examples of wildlife mounts from the start of the process to finished product.

Saturday July 4 **Meet a Live Bald Eagle:** Join Maine Wildlife Park staffers Pam and Nikki Richardson with immature bald eagle 'Lawrence' from 11am 12noon, & at 1:30pm to learn about eagles in Maine. Although this eagle does not have the white head and tail of a 4 yr. old adult bird, he is impressive to see and photograph up close!

Saturday July 11 **Wear Your 'PJ's' Night Visit: 7:30-9:30pm** What do you do to get ready for bed? Wear your pajamas for a night visit at the park and take a short learning tour about how our animals prepare for and survive during the dark hours. Regular admission fees. (*Call office 657-4977 if raining*) *The Nature Store and Snack Shack will be open for snacks & souvenirs!*

Saturday July 18 **Maine Woodsman Days:** Join **Maine Custom Wood Sculpture** Bill Fournier as he uses a chain saw to create eagles, bears and more. Watch a block of wood become a work of art. Finished pieces will be for sale. The **Streaked Mountain Wood Carvers**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching, preserving and promoting the art of woodcarving, will also be on hand to display a variety of wildlife carving methods, and there will be hands-on SOAP CARVING for the kids! **Nate Gould**, Assistant Superintendent at the Park, will demonstrate using a chainsaw to carve a wooden chain with moveable links and accessories out of a solid beam, or 'cant'. Bring your cameras & your earplugs for these great demonstrations of different wood carving methods!

Saturday July 25 **Maine's Native Turtles:** Join wildlife park staff to see and learn more about Maine's 7 species of native turtles. Individual turtles will be on hand to view and photograph up close. Turtle program times will be: 11am, 12noon and 1pm.

Saturday August 1 **Chainsaw Art with Ron Carlson:** A lifelong hobby became a business; now thousands of pieces later, Ron specializes in carving bears. He's carved almost every animal, along with requests to create airplanes, to the 7 dwarfs, to giant gorillas on safari. He's shipped his work to a dozen countries worldwide; and will have a variety of carvings on exhibit and for sale.

Sat/Sun. Aug. 8-9 **Native American POW WOW - Honor the Animals!** Representatives of several tribes will be at the park for two full days with dancers, drummers, craft vendors, singers and traditional food booths. Special events will be presented throughout each day. This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about Maine's Native Americans. *(All day, rain or shine).*

Saturday Aug. 15 **Maine Bow Association Youth Archery:** Join Jerome Richards, certified Firearm, Bow & Crossbow Hunter Safety Instructor, and his wife Jean for some hands-on fun with archery! The Richards will set up archery targets, and have a variety of bows for you to try out. A great way for you and your kids to try your hands at a new and increasingly popular sport.

Saturday August 22 **Life of the Honey Bee:** Learn about the industrious life of the honey bee, and the role of the beekeeper. Parts of the bee hive and beekeeping equipment will be on display, and experienced beekeepers will be available to answer your questions. A variety of delicious native Maine honey and other products from the hive will be available to purchase.

Saturday Aug. 29 **Maine Custom Wood Sculpture:** Join Bill Fournier as he uses a chain saw to create eagles, bears and more. Watch a block of wood become a work of art. Finished pieces will be for sale. Bring your cameras & earplugs!

Saturday Sept. 5 **Landscaping For Wildlife with Skillin's Greenhouses:** Expert native landscaping staff will be on hand with a wide selection of native shrubs, small trees and other plants that are hardy and attractive, while providing food and shelter for our birds and wildlife. Plants are on sale-ready to install into your yard or landscape.

Sunday Sept. 6 **National Grandparent's Day:** Free admission for Grandparents accompanied by their grandchildren; regular entrance fees for all other family members

Saturday Sept. 19 **Rick Charette Concert!** As a singer and songwriter, Rick Charette has been capturing the hearts and spirits of young and old alike with his delightful and inspiring children's songs. His performances blend original contemporary pop music and lyrics with imaginative activities that generate all kinds of audience participation. Many songs he will perform here will relate to Maine's wild animals! ***Concert 11am-12noon rain or shine:*** Rick will sign autographs and sell CDs after the show.

Friday October 23 **Halloween Night Visit:** 6:00-9:00PM: Get into the spooky spirit! Special Halloween Displays! Haunted Tree Trail! Wear your costumes! Door Prizes! Regular Admission Fees ***(Rain date: Saturday, October 25, same time)*** The Nature Store and Snack Shack will be open for spooky snacks & souvenirs!

November 11 **Veterans Day/Closing Day for the Park:** Free admission for U.S. Military personnel and Veterans only on our last day of the season.

*Our picnic shelters and Outdoor Classroom may be reserved for parties, special occasions,
family gatherings and more!*

School wildlife programs and tours are available

*Consider **volunteering** at the wildlife park. There are opportunities for gatehouse attendants,
tour guides, gardeners and store clerks in the snack shack and nature store. FMI, please call 207-657-4977 x 0.*